

She told us how much she loved politics and government and that she was soon going to graduate from Illinois Wesleyan University.

So I said: Why don't you call me sometime. Maybe you can be an intern in my office.

She agreed. She was not only an intern, she was one of the best. As soon as she graduated, we hired her. A year later, she was promoted to handle immigration and citizenship casework, and she did a great job. Then there was an opportunity for her to work as my deputy director for the entire downstate portion of Illinois. This was in 2006.

So Sara Nelson took off and became my representative, going all over the State and speaking for me at meetings and representing me and working on projects as important as the new courthouse in Rockford, IL, and the new bridge across the Mississippi River connecting Granite City with downtown St. Louis. There was no project too daunting for her. She took them on.

In the meantime, to nobody's surprise, she found the person she wanted to marry, John Froelich. She and John got married several years ago, and we went to the wedding—a beautiful event. Her family came down from Minnesota, and the two of them were perfect. John was in medical school studying to be an orthopedic surgeon. Lo and behold, shortly, about a year or so after that, along comes baby Naomi. I cannot tell you how much she loves that baby. She replaced politics, soccer, and the World Cup in her list of most important things. I see Sara out in the park on weekends pushing the stroller, sometimes running behind it with little Naomi giggling along the way.

There is some good news for Minnesotans and bad news for Illinois as this story comes to an end. John Froelich is a medical student and will start his fellowship at Mayo Clinic in Rochester in a few weeks, so Sara and Naomi and John are moving on. I will miss her. She has been a terrific asset on my staff and a terrific person. She is a great mom and has been a great ally in the course of the years she has worked for me.

Loretta and I wish Sara and John and Naomi the very best and thank them for the wonderful years of service they have given to me and the State of Illinois.

THE DREAM ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, 2 years ago, I embarked on a legislative mission to pass a bill called the DREAM Act. The purpose of the DREAM Act was to give to young people who came to this country as children, and who were raised in the United States, who have graduated high school, who have done a well and made a good life in this country, a chance to become legal residents in the United States of America. They are

long-term U.S. residents. They have good moral character. They have graduated high school, and we say: If you will complete at least 2 years of college and military service in good standing, we will give you a chance to become legal.

There are thousands of young people who fit this description in the United States. They were brought here as kids. If their parents came to the United States and overstayed a visa or crossed the border when they shouldn't have, these children shouldn't be held accountable. They were children. We don't hold children accountable for any wrongdoing by their parents. They grew up here, they pledge allegiance to the flag in their classrooms here, they sing our national anthem, and many of them speak no other language other than English.

The purpose of the DREAM Act is that we should not punish children for their parents' actions. That is not the American way. Instead, the DREAM Act says to these students: America is going to give you a chance, a chance to continue living here and to make this an even better nation.

The DREAM Act is not just the right thing to do, it makes America a better country. The young people who would qualify for the DREAM Act are class valedictorians, star athletes, honor roll students, and ROTC leaders. They are the future doctors, soldiers, computer scientists, and engineers who will make this country even better.

The DREAM Act would strengthen our national security by giving thousands of highly qualified, well-educated young people the chance to enlist in the Armed Forces. The DREAM Act has the support of not only Secretary of Defense Robert Gates but also GEN Colin Powell.

The DREAM Act will help our economy by giving these talented young people the chance to become engineers and entrepreneurs, doctors, lawyers, teachers, small business owners, and nurses. That is why the DREAM Act has the support of business leaders from across the country, such as Rupert Murdoch and the CEOs of companies such as Microsoft and Pfizer.

The talented young people who would be eligible for the DREAM Act call themselves Dreamers. When I first embarked on this mission 10 years ago, they used to kind of hold back in the shadows of a meeting, kind of whisper to me as I went by that they would be saved if the DREAM Act were passed. Well, now they are stepping forward, and I am glad they are, so America can see who they are.

Every day these Dreamers contact my office to tell me their stories. These stories have energized me to keep up the fight. The last time we had a vote on this act on the Senate floor was last December. We had a majority. But when it comes to controversial issues, it takes 60 votes. I want to take this up again and give these young people a chance.

I want to tell you about two of these DREAM Act-eligible people.

Herta Llusho was brought to the United States from Albania when she was 11. She and her mother settled in Grosse Pointe, MI, a suburb of Detroit. Herta came here legally, but shortly after arriving, Herta's mother filed an application to stay in the United States.

Herta quickly learned English and became an academic star. She graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School with a 4.05 grade point average. In high school, she was a member of the varsity track team, won an Advanced Placement Scholar Award, and was a member of the National Honor Society.

Here is a picture of Herta at graduation. Herta is currently a junior at the University of Detroit Mercy, where she is an honors student studying to be an electrical engineer. She has a grade point average of 3.98 and has completed two internships at engineering firms.

She is also very involved in the community, volunteering at homeless shelters, tutoring programs, and her church. Listen to what one of her friends says about Herta:

I am humbled by Herta's willingness and desire to serve. I have had the privilege of going to the same church at which she faithfully serves. She spends hours tutoring kids and volunteering with the junior high Sunday school class. It is a joy to watch so many children run up to her at church because of the love they receive when they are with her.

In 2009, after 9 years of legal proceedings and deportation proceedings, here is what Herta said about being placed in deportation.

I was shocked. My friends are here, my education is here, my community is here. All of a sudden, I was asked to leave behind everything I know and go back to a country I barely know. When I lived there, I was little, so I don't remember much and I barely speak Albanian any more.

Herta's community rose to her defense. Thousands of people signed an online petition to stop her deportation. Last year, the Department of Homeland Security granted Herta a 1-year stay—just 1 year. The Department is now considering whether to delay it for another year. I sincerely hope they will.

Would it be a good use of taxpayer dollars to deport Herta? Of course not. There is so much discussion in America today about what we need from our young people for America to succeed in the future in the so-called STEM fields—science, technology, engineering, and math. Every year we issue thousands of H-1B visas to bring foreign workers to the United States in the STEM fields.

Herta is a straight-A student in electrical engineering, a STEM field. She doesn't need an H-1B visa. She is a homegrown American talent. Why in the world would we create a law to allow someone who has never lived in the United States to come here and legally reside to become an electrical engineer and tell Herta, who has lived

here all of the life she remembers, she has to leave? That is just plain wrong.

Herta came to Capitol Hill to speak at a briefing I sponsored for the DREAM Act, and this is what she said.

I'm a typical story. There are thousands of stories out there just like mine. Please support the DREAM Act so students like me don't have to leave. We are worth it. This is a country we have come to love.

Herta is right. She and thousands of others are worth it. They have so much to contribute to America if we just give them a chance.

Let me introduce you to one other student. This is Julieta Garibay. Julieta was brought to the United States in 1992 at the age of 1. She graduated from the University of Texas with a bachelor's degree in nursing. She was on the dean's list and the president's honor roll and volunteered more than 500 hours at hospitals in Dallas and Austin. Julieta went on to earn a master's degree at the University of Texas in public health nursing. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau, the international Honor Society of Nursing. She has been a registered nurse since 2004.

Here is the problem. Julieta is undocumented. She cannot legally work in the United States of America. Let me tell you something else about Julieta. She is married to SSG Armen Weinrick, who serves in the U.S. Air Force Reserves. Here is a picture of Julieta and Staff Sergeant Weinrick at Julieta's graduation. Staff Sergeant Weinrick is currently awaiting deployment. He will go overseas to defend our country, but while he is gone serving America, his wife could be deported. That is just plain wrong.

Julieta sent me a letter, and here is what she said about her dreams for the future.

I desperately need the DREAM Act to pass so I can practice my beloved profession—nursing. I have been dreaming of being a nurse for the past 7 years since I earned my nursing license. Once the DREAM Act passes, I will join the military in hopes of making up the lost time and serve the country I call home as a nurse.

Do we need more nurses in America? Of course, we do. In fact, the United States imports thousands of foreign-trained nurses each year to meet the needs of our country. What is wrong with this picture? This young lady has a master's degree in nursing from the University of Texas. I am sure my colleague on the Senate floor would acknowledge that is one of the most highly regarded universities in America. She has this master's degree, and they are planning to deport her. If they do, she will probably cross paths in the airport with a nurse coming here from some foreign country on a work visa to work in our hospitals. That isn't fair, it isn't smart, and it just doesn't make sense.

The DREAM Act would give Julieta the chance to serve the America she loves, the America she calls home.

I first introduced the DREAM Act in 2001. Since then I have met so many

immigrant students who would qualify, such as Herta Llusho and Julieta Garibay. They are Americans in their hearts. They are willing to serve our country and to make it a better place. We have to give them a chance.

I ask my colleagues: Please, in your heart of hearts, think about the fairness and justice behind this legislation. Let's support and pass the DREAM Act. It is the right thing to do. It will make America a stronger nation.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that following my remarks, the Senator from Texas, Mr. CORNYN, be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Washington is recognized.

Mrs. MURRAY. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mrs. MURRAY pertaining to the introduction of S. 1166 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

MEDICARE

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I wish to speak briefly today about Medicare, about the law, and specifically a law that Congress passed in 2003 which provided for something called the Medicare trigger. This provided that when the Medicare trustees would indicate that a Medicare funding warning should issue according to that law, then the President of the United States under that law must, within 15 days, submit to Congress proposed legislation to respond to that warning.

What does all this mean? We know the Medicare trustees made the situation clear that Medicare will run out of money by the year 2024. Medicare's unfunded liabilities are more than \$24 trillion and growing. In other words, there is a \$24 trillion gap between the promises the U.S. Government has made to seniors and the funding to pay for it. Of course, as the Chief Actuary stated, this is actually an optimistic scenario, that we can fund Medicare through 2024.

The President of the United States has failed to comply with this law duly passed by Congress and signed into law. I do not really know why the President has failed to meet this legal responsibility of the law. I hope it is an oversight, and I hope it is one he will correct shortly. Having no plan while the President has criticized the House for the plan they passed is bad enough, but failing to submit a plan when the President of the United States is required to do so by law is a violation of the law, something the President has taken an oath to uphold.

There is no doubt about it, section 802 entitled "Presidential Submission of Legislation" uses the word "shall."

It is not "may," it is not "can," and it is not "it would be a good idea." It says the President shall submit to Congress, within a 15-day period beginning on the day the budget submission to Congress is made, proposed legislation responding to this Medicare funding warning. March 1 marked the day 15 since the President submitted his budget, and the Medicare trustees, as we all know, have been ringing the alarm bell for years. But, unfortunately, this is not the only provision of the law the President has neglected.

We could talk about the Greek debt crisis. On Tuesday, the President talked about the Greek debt crisis in a joint press conference with Angela Merkel, the Chancellor of Germany. This is what the President said about the Greek debt crisis:

We have pledged to cooperate fully in working through these issues on a bilateral basis but also through international and financial institutions like the International Monetary Fund.

Obviously, Greece has suffered a debt crisis. They have the International Monetary Fund, funded by various nations, to bail them out. Unfortunately, when the United States has a debt crisis, if we do nothing about it, there will be no one left to bail us out.

The problem with the statement of the President about the International Monetary Fund is that the Congress has also spoken on that issue. Senator VITTER and I sponsored an amendment last summer that was incorporated into the so-called Dodd-Frank Act or the financial services regulatory reform bill. This amendment was approved unanimously by the Senate and became law by the President's hand. This provision, included in section 1501 of the Dodd-Frank Act, requires the Treasury Secretary to determine whether IMF loans to countries that are already deeply in debt will likely be repaid and certify that determination to Congress. Furthermore, if an IMF loan will not be repaid, the Treasury Secretary is required to direct the executive director to vote in opposition to the proposed loan. These provisions became Federal law for a reason—because we sought to protect U.S. taxpayers from being used by the IMF to bail out foreign nations that have been making irresponsible spending decisions.

As I said earlier, I hope the failure of the President to comply with this mandatory requirement under the Medicare law we passed in 2003 is simply an oversight. But we know that so far the President and the majority party in the Senate have not submitted—the President has actually submitted a budget that doubles the debt in 5 years and triples it in 10 years, but he has made no response to the Medicare trustees' statement that Medicare will be insolvent in 13 years. Instead, he has attacked the only people who have been responsible enough to come up with a proposal. Admittedly, the proposal may not be perfect, but it is a responsibility of all of us to do what we